

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chicago Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) Apprehends Murder Fugitive from 1981

CHICAGO, Ill. – An FBI murder fugitive from 1981 was arrested last week by a Chicago officer of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) during a routine identity check.

Jose Cortez-Espinoza, a Legal Permanent Resident from Ecuador, visited the BCIS office last week to replace his Permanent Resident Alien Card, or “green card.” When the Immigration officer ran a background check, he discovered that Espinoza had an outstanding federal warrant for having fled prosecution based on a New York murder case. The immigration officer took immediately called the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), also under the DHS, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). Law enforcement officials responded immediately, and Espinoza was taken into FBI custody for further investigation.

“This case shows how our recent BCIS system and procedure improvements help us quickly identify foreign fugitives in the U.S.,” said Donald J. Monica, Interim Director of the BCIS in Chicago. “It also allows us to better assist the majority of applicants who are eligible for an immigration benefit, and who contribute to the strength of the United States.”

IBIS, the database that identified Mr. Cortez-Espinoza as a wanted person, became available to immigration adjudicators in the spring of 2002. The IBIS system is consistent with our nation’s commitment to a more secure society while also welcoming those who seek the many benefits this country has to offer.

The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (BCIS) and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are two immigration bureaus with the newly formed Department of Homeland Security.

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